IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of pending claims with status identifiers in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- 1. (Original) A system for re-routing traffic from a bi-directional Label Switched Path (LSP) comprising: an originating network device operable to: re-route traffic traveling along a bi-directional LSP in a forward direction to an alternate path in the forward direction; and transmit a switch over message along the alternate path in the forward direction to a merging network device responsible for re-routing traffic traveling along the bi-directional LSP in a backward direction to the alternate path in the backward direction.
- 2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the originating network device is further operable to transmit a second message, along the alternate path in the forward direction, to the merging network device to allow traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected.
- 3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the originating network device is a multi-protocol label switched (MPLS) device.

- 4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the bi-directional LSP is comprised

 of an LSP carrying traffic in the forward direction and another LSP carrying traffic in the backward direction.
 - 5. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a merging network device operable to receive the switch over message and to re-route traffic traveling along the bi-directional LSP in the backwards direction to the alternate path in the backwards direction based on the switch over message.
 - 6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein, the merging network device is further operable to: receive a second message along the alternate path in the forward direction; and allow traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected based on said second message.
 - 7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the merging network device is a MPLS device.
 - 8. (Original) A merging network device operable to: receive a switch over message; and re-route traffic traveling along a bi-directional LSP in a backwards direction to an alternate path in the backwards direction based on the switch over message.

- 9. (Original) The device as in claim 8 further operable to: receive a second message along the alternate path in the forward direction; and allow traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected based on said second message.
- 10. (Original) The device of claim 8 wherein, the merging network device is a MPLS device.
- 11. (Original) A method for re-routing traffic from a bi-directional LSP comprising the steps of: re-routing traffic traveling along a bi-directional LSP in a forward direction to an alternate path in the forward direction; and transmitting a switch over message along the alternate path in the forward direction to a merging network device responsible for re-routing traffic traveling along the bi-directional LSP in a backward direction to the alternate path in the backward direction.
- 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of: transmitting a second message, along the alternate path in the forward direction, to the merging network device to allow traffic to travel along the bidirectional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected.

- 13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the bi-directional LSP is comprised of an LSP carrying traffic in the forward direction and another LSP carrying traffic in the backward direction
 - 14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of: receiving the switch over message; and re-routing traffic traveling along the bi-directional LSP in the backwards direction to the alternate path in the backwards direction based on the switch over message.
 - 15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of: receiving a second message along the alternate path in the forward direction; and allowing traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected based on said second message.
 - 16. (Original) A method for re-routing traffic comprising the steps of: receiving a switch over message; and re-routing traffic traveling along a bi-directional LSP in a backwards direction to an alternate path in the backwards direction based on the switch over message.
 - 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of: receiving a second message along the alternate path in the forward direction; and allowing traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected based on said second message.

- 18. (Original) A system for re-routing traffic comprising: an originating network device comprising: means for re-routing traffic traveling along a bi-directional LSP in a forward direction to an alternate path in the forward direction; and means for transmitting a switch over message along the alternate path in the forward direction to a merging network device responsible for re-routing traffic traveling along the bi-directional LSP in a backward direction to the alternate path in the backward direction.
 - 19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the originating network device further comprises means for transmitting a second message, along the alternate path in the forward direction, to the merging network device to allow traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected.
 - 20. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the bi-directional LSP is comprised of an LSP carrying traffic in the forward direction and another LSP carrying traffic in the backward direction.
 - 21. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a merging network device which comprises means for receiving the switch over message and means for re-routing traffic traveling along the bi-directional LSP in the

backwards direction to the alternate path in the backwards direction based on the switch over message.

- 22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein, the merging network device further comprises: means for receiving a second message along the alternate path in the forward direction; and means for allowing traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected based on said second message.
- 23. (Original) A merging network device comprising: means for receiving a switch over message; and means for re-routing traffic traveling along a bi-directional LSP in a backwards direction to an alternate path in the backwards direction based on the switch over message.
- 24. (Original) The device as in claim 23 further comprising: means for receiving a second message along the alternate path in the forward direction; and means for allowing traffic to travel along the bi-directional LSP in the backward direction when a failure is no longer detected based on said second message.
- 25. (Original) A system for re-routing traffic comprising: means for re-routing traffic traveling along a bi-directional LSP in a forward direction to an alternate path in the forward direction; means for transmitting a switch over message, along the alternate path in the forward direction, for re-routing traffic traveling

along the bi-directional LSP in a backward direction; means for receiving the switch over message; and means for re-routing traffic traveling along the bi-directional LSP in a backwards direction to the same alternate path in the backwards direction based on the switch over message.